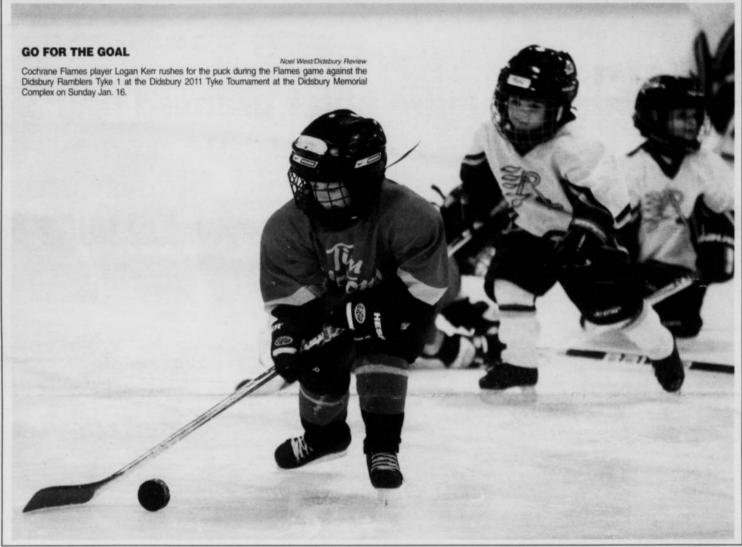
News: Franchise fees going up - p3 Sports: Sled Dog Classic will finish early - p9

# DIDSBURY

TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2011





### Bogus job posting disguises money scam

BY SYLVIA COLE Review Staff

Her friend thought it might be too good to be true, but Penny Wagner hoped she had found the perfect job – local, with good pay and great hours. What seemed like a good idea at the time quickly spi-ralled into a confusing ordeal that could have put Wagner out \$1,000 had she not stepped back and questioned what was going on.

"I started to think, 'hey that's really weird,'" said

weeks of correspondence with a man claiming he was from London, England and soon moving Alberta, started asking Wagner to do things that seemed out of the ordinary.

It was the end of November and when flipping through the classi-fieds in the Mountain View Gazette, Wagner saw an ad with a bold headline, 'Local driver needed.' The Monday to Friday job promised competitive wages, medical and dental, and vacation pay.

On December 6, Wagner started in the first of several correspondences to mrsparker65@googlemail.c

om.
"He said he was moving to Alberta soon and would need someone to pick up his children and drive them back and forth to school." said Wagner, who was told she'd receive \$550 a week for the work.

Through e-mail Wagner was told the man was hoping to arrive in Canada Jan. 5 and had an agent looking

for apartments for him. It was when she received a cheque for \$1,450 in the mail she started to get suspicious.

"Two hundred I was to keep to guarantee the job was mine," she said, explaining that she was later e-mailed to send the rest to a bank in Texas where his agent was sup-posed to be. She said it didn't seem to add up but phoned Western Union, the bank he was using, to send the money over.

But then a few days later

money to Florida, saying the agent didn't have proper identification with him to collect the money, she explained. After that, he was asking her to move money again, to Beijing.

By this time it was past Jan. 5, and Mr. Sparker had changed his story, saying he would arrive Jan. 15.

Wagner called Western Union to ask them about sending the money and explained this was her third time moving the funds.

I got a hold of Western Union to send a third place - they flagged it and put me through to fraud," she said.

Police said Wagner was dragged into a scam where someone sends a fraudu-lent cheque that won't be honoured and gets it deposited into the victim's account. Then the victim transfers their own money to another account and by the time they realize the cheque wasn't honoured, they're out a thousand dollars

See "Scam" p2

LIVE WELL WITH

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Oceans Tuna 99¢



Vaseline Lip Therapy 199



**Toothbrushes** 



Orville Redenbacher popcorn

229



OPEN AT 8:30 AM **MONDAY TO FRIDAY** 

### Development permits slow in 201

BY SYLVIA COLE Review Staff

The value of develop ment permits shot down 30 per cent in 2010 compared to previous years. In total \$5, 310, 685 was totalled for construction value of 25 dwellings created last year. The numbers from 2009's \$14,202,330 worth of construction on 79 develop-

"Last year I would have predicted we were heading into a slump," said manag-er of planning and infrastructure Brittany Wickham, who wasn't overbers go down.

She said the economy was one of many factors that contributed to the slowdown and the number of lots available for purchase was also down last year.

There was \$3,805,000 spent on residential permits, de \$12,559,480. down

'We are looking this year to see if developers will open more areas," she said, adding that the town is in the final review stages of a residential area structure plan and said there are a

Wickham said other plans for this year include continuing to increase commercial and industrial numbers that staved relatively steady from last year. Seven commercial permits were taken out last year up from four, and nine indus trial permits, down from

Overall \$1,038,500 was spent on industrial and commercial. from \$1,162,000.

One focus for the town includes selling 46 acres of land near Highway 582 and the railroad, owned by

Canadian Mineral Inc., a company from the States going to start up here but didn't.

"The main focus is getting the land online and finding someone to buy it, said Wickham, hoping from there, developers come into the area.

Another determining factor for this year could be affected by council's decission with off site levies

Developers faced a slow year last year and were surprised when they heard offsite levies could be hiked something they told the Review in August would kill their business during the economic slump.

In August the town proposed hiking offsite levies from \$17,000 an acre to almost \$40,000 - a change opposed by developers.

"If times are good and houses are selling and moving - developers aren't as concerned. When things are quiet and you add an additional cost with off-site levies their concern is it will stay quiet and stay dead," said Mayor Brian Wittal, who sat down with nine developers about before Christmas to hear their concerns. He said a

committee with two or three representatives for developers and for town has been created to try and strike a balance.

We can't keep putting tax dollars into new infra-structure," he said, hoping to work something out and suggesting slowly increasing the levies could be a possibility.

He said they'll be sitting down again this month and hopes to have some thing figured out by the

'It's hard to say though. We could be miles apart on both ends."

#### undre killer granted bail Accused S

BY DAN SINGLETON Review staff

A Sundre-area woman charged with second-degree murder after her husband was shot dead in the family home last month has been granted \$25,000 bail.

Heather Wilson Duncan, had her bail hearing before Justice Sandy Park in Calgary Court of Queen's

Bench on Thursday. Responding to a 911 call placed by the accused, police found Barry Barry

myCommunity

Who do you know...

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Alexander Duncan, 68, dead in the couple's home, south of Bergen, on Dec. 10. Heather Duncan was arrestat the scene and charged the next day

During last week's bail hearing, assigned Crown prosecutor Doug Simpson reportedly told Justice Park that the 911 call establishes the accused as the shooter.

"The accused said (during the 911 call) 'I killed him, I killed him, he said pull the trigger and I did', said Simpson, noting that the cause of death was a shotgun blast to the head.

Court also heard that alcohol was a factor in the shooting.

As part of her release conditions, Duncan must report to RCMP once a

week, follow a nighttime curfew, and not possess alcohol or non-prescription drugs.

A closed gate with a 'no trespassing' sign blocked the driveway in front of Duncan's home Friday.

A neighbour, who asked not to be named, said he had met both Heather and Barry Duncan on numerous occasions over the past five years. He called them "friendly and quiet."

"We were shocked to hear what had happened," he said Friday.

"It was something we never would have expected. They were never a problem and we met them everal times."

Duncan is scheduled to

be in Didsbury provincial court on Feb. 24 for



Heather Wilson Duncan heads into Didsbury Provincial Court Monday, December 13 for her first court appearance.

### SCAM

Continued from p.1

"Any time you're sent a amount of money upfront - be cautious, make sure your cheque goes through before you go ahead. If it looks too good to be true, chances are it is," warns Sgt. Jeff Jacobson

He said typically in this type of situation, the scam artist will get more than one person wiring money

If even 10 people fall for the scam, it's \$10,000 for the criminal. "It's a very lucrative scam

that they're attempting to do. The majority is done over borders and jurisdictions which makes it hard to prosecute or for money ever be retrieved," he said.

In Wagner's case, the bank flagged the activity as suspicious after the third transfer so Wagner never lost any money.

Wagner remembers telling someone she knew about the job who ques-tioned if it was legitimate. "(It was in the) local paper I thought it was an honest job," she said.

Wagner wasn't the only one duped by the ad. Reception staff at Mountain View Publishing said the company lost \$300

when a phoney credit card number was used to place the ad. The man used an address from a newspaper in Athabasca as his own. After the ad was published, three readers called the paper to say they had applied for the job and real-

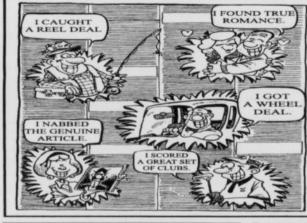
ed it was a scam. Wagner said she will still use the classifieds to scan for jobs but will be more careful in the future, ignoring any ads that only have

an e-mail address as contact information.

"I'm happy I caught it when I did, but I'm disappointed it wasn't a legiti-mate job," she said.

"Watch out if (a prospective employer) answers an e-mail and it says to do things in a different country, cut it off right then and there," advises Wagner to others that might head down a similar road. "It's not legitimate.'





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UNERAL SERVICES Diana Rowat



### Council pulls back on donations

BY SYLVIA COLE

Review Staff

Organizations might have to start planning additional ways to fundraise, if council decides to cut back the promotional budget next month

Last week council hesitated in making a decision whether or not to grant funds to two organizations requesting sponsorship totalling

Council went over budget last year \$2,361.50 and in September denied requests from Didsbury

Minor Hockey Association to keep

debt from growing. How to keep this from happening again was discussed at council last week and ideas varied from cutting back the amount of money they typically hand out by half, to setting timelines for when organizations have to apply for grants so there's no surprise requests at the end of the year when the budget has almost run out.

Council didn't make any decisions on whether or not procepromotional requests will change but will discuss it again during the budget deliberations next month.

The two groups, the Didsbury Farm and Ranch Bonspiel and Didsbury Minor Hockey Association were approved for funding, the hockey association getting approved for only half their request

"There's only one farmer ranch spiel a year where (with) minor hockey there's going to be more requests. So (we should) give curlers \$350 and warn them it could be cut back next year. With hockey we should give them \$250," said Gayle Veno.

### Franchise fees going up

BY SYLVIA COLE

Review Staff

Franchise fees are going up this year from five per cent to seven and a half, council decided last week.

The increased fee, that will appear on electrical bills starting in March, will result in a \$12.61 increase per year for the average consumer, estimates chief financial officer Kynan Larson.

In total the town will rake in \$117, 470 in revenue, \$49, 739 more than what the town would receive if council decided to remain at five per cent.

Franchise fees ... (do) not pick everyone has to pay, said councillor Lavar Adams of why he felt the increase was a good idea. Thirteen per cent of assessed properties in Didsbury are exempt from taxes, totalling \$83

million. "With franchise fees recoup a percentage of that," he

The majority of council agreed

"This is a way to get a little of it back," said councillor Gayle Veno. Councillor Peter Versluys was the only councillor who didn't vote in

favour of the increas "It's sometimes called a hidden tax and I wonder how many people actually understand what's happen-ing so my conscious said oppose," he explained after council.

There is a reason why it's done -[we're] able to collect revenue from hospitals and schools - places that do not pay taxes. The other option is if you don't have a franchise fee it gets included in the mill rate. I understand that it just doesn't sit well with me.

Versluys brought a few articles he

had read in the Edmonton Journal in November to council that talked about a private member's bill introduced last February in attempt to regulate what municipalities charge utilities for access to city properties. The bill flopped but recommendations were made to explore a fee that provides consistency, and have the fee calculated according to a standardized formula, he explained adding that the mat-ter is still outstanding.

"What do we do next year, go up five or 10?" he asked during council. The last time council increased franchise fee was two years ago. Before that, the rate sat at zero per

Other municipalities' current rates include Olds at 7.93, Carstairs at five, Cremona at 10 and Sundre at

### Missing man discovered in Didsbury hotel

BY SYLVIA COLE

man who was missing from Strathmore for 12 days was discov-

ered in Didsbury late last week.
"I think it's safe to say he wasn't wanting people to know where he was while he was sorting things out," said Cpl. Duane White of Strathmore RCMP, on why the man went missing.

Adrien Proulx, 45, was last seen at his home in Strathmore before he went missing January 4th.

Family and friends said that it was

unusual behaviour and were con-cerned for his well-being. Police initiited a search and asked the public for help.

"We requested Didsbury follow up on a tip in the Didsbury area . they found him. It was good teamwork," said White

Police located Proulx in a hotel in last Thursday Proulx was taken to Didsbury hospital for observation purpose

"We're thanking the public for tips ... it's like a needle in a haystack without the public's help," he said,

explaining they received several tips, not all of which were followed up on before they located Proulx



Adrien Proulx who was missing from Strathmore for over a week was discovered in Didsbury Thursday.

### Police briefs

#### Ditched car rummaged through

Police are warning people to take their valuables with them when leaving their vehicle unattended. A silver GMC SUV was left on the highway overnight on January 8 after going off the road during a storm. The owner of the vehicle, from Calgary, returned January 10 to retrieve the vehicle that was left along Highway 2 between Carstairs and Didsbury. Numerous items were taken valued at \$4,800, and included clothing, computer accessories and jewelry. "If a vehicle does get stuck criminals will take advantage of it," warns Sgt. Jeff Jacobson. "Take valuables with you." How the vehicle was broken into isn't clear but a pair of pliers was located in the vehicle that weren't in it before the vehicle abandoned.

### Hit and run

Police are investigating a hit and run that occurred across from the AG Foods in Didsbury on January 11 between 3:50 p.m. and 4:15 p.m. The owner of a 2007 blue Dodge Calibre parked along 20th Street and went inside the grocery store to pick up a few items. When the owner came out there was some minor damage to the front bumper estimated between \$600 and \$700. Police assume someone has backed into the vehicle. The owner noticed a blue quarter-ton truck was parked in front of the vehicle before going inside.

If anyone witnessed anything police are asking them to come forward with information.

#### Wallet nabbed from unlocked car

A wallet was stolen from a blue Pontiac Sunfire sometime overnight on January 7th. The car, parked along the 2200 block of 7th Avenue in Didsbury was Police are reminding the public not leave valuables in their vehicles and to lock their

### Policing patrols to increase

Residents can expect to see an increase in policing over the next several weeks. Didsbury RCMP recently secured grants from the Alberta Traffic Safety Fund to cover the cost of an additional 200 patrol hours to be used between now and the end of March. The patrols will be focused specifically on traffic safety and enforcement and police will be patrolling roads between the communities of Didsbury, Carstairs and Cremona.

want the public to make it difficult for us to find traffic offences. If they're out and they're not wearing seatbelts, are speeding or their registration is not up to date, it's more likely we're going to come across them now," said Jacobson of examples of traffic offences. The additional patrols have started already.









listings at our Victoria Mall display



### pinion

### **Editorial**

### **Smoking in cars** with kids the next great tobacco debate

DAN SINGLETON



As communities across Canada mark National Non-Smoking Week, which runs from January 16 to 22, a battle may be on the horizon over one of the last contentious issues surrounding tobacco use in Alberta.

With the smoking in workplaces debate now all but settled, at least in this province, the issue of

second-hand smoke in vehicles containing children is shaping up to be the next great tobacco fight

While seven provinces and two territories have already banned smoking in cars with children, the practice is still legal in Alberta, Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, and NWT.

The question of whether Alberta lawmakers should follow the lead of the other Canadian jurisdictions and pass non-smoking in cars legislation has been raised a number of times in recent years. However, to date, the provincial government has not officially entered the debate

Whether that situation will remain unchanged in 2011 will probably depend a great deal on how much public pressure, if any, the Tories face over the issue

A public survey recently published in the Canadian Medical Association Journal found that the vast majority of Canadians, including most Albertans, would support making smoking in cars with kids illegal.

"This issue has unstoppable momentum," said Rob Cunningham, a senior policy analyst with the Canadian Cancer Society. "These laws have enormous public support and they have been easily adopted with all party support in provincial legislatures

"There is good evidence to show that children's exposure to second-hand smoke in cars is dangerous," he

Gale Foreman, a tobacco reduction specialist with Alberta Health in Central Alberta, has said the health danger to anyone, including children, in a vehicle where smoking is taking place is certainly substantial.

Opponents of laws banning smoking in cars with children say the government has no place dictating the use of private property such as cars and trucks.

As with other smoking debates, the issue of smoking in vehicles with children promises to be divisive and maybe even nasty in the months ahead.

The Stelmach government was one of the last jurisdictions in Canada to ban smoking in public places such as bars and restaurants, in some cases imposing the provincial ban only years after some other provinces.

Whether Alberta will end up being the last province to ban smoking in vehicles with children, if ever, will probably depend a good deal on how much public pressure the Stelmach Tories are prepared to weather over the

Or maybe Alberta will be forced to pass legislation when multi-million dollar lawsuits start piling up from anti-smoking groups and children's advocates?

### WIND CHILL CHART

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Letters

### Canine friends don't get respect

I am writing this letter not only for myself but also for those who feel that they do not have a voice.

A week ago, after much discus sion and many tears, we decided to take our canine companion, protector and quite often our comedy relief of almost 18 years and have him put to sleep. This was a very heart-wrenching decision for us.

When I thought I could keep my composure for a few minutes I went to the town office to notify them of our companion's passing and to update our other guy's licence. I filled out the form I was given and put my elder dog's name and deceased below it, which to me seemed to be the way to go. Well, I found I had to bring this to the attention of the person behind the counter because they didn't even read the form when I gave it to them. After which, instead of compassion, I was met with a rather indignant attitude becau that is not the way it is usually done. I was really treated like I was just a crazy dog owner who was

wasting their time. After the trans-action was finally completed, I left wondering, whatever happened to respectfulness and compassion?

I realize too that for a lot of peo-ple out there, their four-legged pets are nothing more than that. However, for people like ourselves and many others they are much more - they become part of the family and when they pass we mourn just like we would for any family member.

Didsbury

### Personal responsibility a solution

I read the editorial, "Time for action on syphilis rise", in the January 11, 2011 Review with interest. I too am appalled by this development and agree that something has to be done. However I do not understand how the Stelmach government can be held responsible for this crisis. It seems to me that those who insist on their right to promiscuous sexual behaviour are the ones who are responsible. To make the government the scapegoat is merely avoiding the real problem

Syphilis is a sexually transmitted disease spread only through sexual intercourse. In 1984 when the AIDS epidemic was just getting started, the Olds Elementary School Parent Council invited a doctor from Calgary to speak to the parents

about this problem. After explaining the disease and its implications, he told us how we could protect ourselves and our children from this problem. It was simple and direct. He called it the ABCs of Sex and explained how it worked Abstinence Before marriage and Complete Fidelity after. The Centers For Disease Control and Prevention state that that is still the way to control and eradicate syphilis and most, if not all, STDs.

I really don't know how the

Stelmach government can enforce the principles of Abstinence and Fidelity on us. The editorial would have them pour more money into our health-care system to pay for the results of the demand for irre-sponsible, selfish and destructive self gratification. I remember that action being referred to

Shutting the barn door after the horse has gone

Agency or choice has three parts: 1. The right to make the choice

The responsibility for that choice

3. The results of that choice.

We have the ability to make the choice and take responsibility for it. When making a choice we need to assure ourselves as best we can where that choice will lead us. That requires a certain amount of maturity and self-control.

I believe that we would be a stronger and more caring society if individuals took responsibility for their actions rather than expecting the government or others to take

that responsibility. Sincerely, Garry Woodruff Olds

## REVIEW

Mountain View Publishing Inc. Box 760, 2017 - 19 Ave., Didsbury, Alberta TOM 0W0

Phone: (403) 335-3301 Fax: (403) 335-8143 Editorial Content email: review@didsbury.greatwest.ca Advertising: dbrennan@olds.greatwest.ca Classified Content: reception@olds.greatwest.ca

Website: www.didsburyreview.ca

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Publisher: Murray Elliott

Advertising: Denise Brennan Managing Editor: Lea Smaldor Editor/Reporter: Sylvia Cole Photographer: Noel West

### How can we help you?

Letters to the editor: Letters submitted for publication must be signed and bear the address, phone number and e-mail address of the writer. Please keep your letter to 500 words or less. Letters may be edited for grammer, punctuation, spelling, length and libel. Unsigned letters will NOT be published. Use of pseudonyms will be permitted only under special cir-cumstances, provided the writer's identify is known to The Review.

News and photos: If you have a news item or a photo opportunity you

Display and classified advertising: Please call 335-3301 and we will be happy to help you place your advertisement. Classified advertising deadline: Friday 12 noon. Display advertising copy deadline: Thursday 5 pm.

#### Do you have a concern or complaint about a newspaper article or ad?

s newspaper is a sponsoring member of the Alberta Pre Council. As a non-judicial, non-governmental review board made up of public and press members, the council considers complaints filed within nine months of publication from the public about the conduct and performance of its member newspapers. If, after bringing your concerns to the attention of the paper, you are not satisfied, you may contact the Alberta Press Council in writing at

Alberta Press Council Box 21067, Edmonton, Alberta T6R 2V4 Phone: 1.403.526.8755



## TOWN OF DIDSBURY

#### **PUBLIC MEETINGS & NOTICES**

#### **REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING:**

uesday, February 1, 2011 at 7:00 pm in Council Chambers

#### MUNICIPAL PLANNING COMMISSION:

Wednesday, January 26, 2011 at 4:30 pm in Council Chambers

### NEW DEVELOPMENT PERMIT APPLICATIONS

The following Development Permits have been issued for these proposed developments:

75 Valarosa Drive HO 11-01 **Home Occupation** 

> - Counseling Services, Technology Services and Hobby Weather Station (with conditions)

2025 - 20 Avenue DP 10-97 Signage (with conditions)

Further information may be obtained at the Town Office, 2037-- 19 Avenue or by calling 403.335.3391. Persons wishing to appeal any of these decisions must do so in writing, with the appropriate fees, to the Secretary, Development Appeal Board, prior to 4:30 p.m. on February 1, 2011.

Dani Woodman - Development Officer

R1

### **ROLLOUT CART PICK UP SCHEDULE JANUARY 2011**

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### DIDSBURY NEIGHBORHOOD PLACE

MOTHER'S UNITE SALE - Please note this event has been rescheduled.

The Town of Didsbury is hosting our annual Mother's Unite Sale. Call to book a table for \$15.00 and sell your gently used children's clothing, toys, strollers, etc. (children's items only ). From 9:00 am - 2:00 pm on our new date of Saturday, February 26, 2011.

VALENTINE CREATIONS - Come enjoy this after-school program at Didsbury Neighborhood Place. We will be decorating cookies, playing Valentine games and making crafts. Class will be on Thursday February 10 from 3:30 - 6:30 pm for children ages 6 - 12 Price is \$20.00 and we require an 8-person minimum to

For more information or to register, call Didsbury Neighborhood Place at 403.335.8719.

### FIREFIGHTERS NEEDED

It takes a special person to volunteer as a Firefighter. Do you think you have what it takes?

The Didsbury Fire Department is accepting applications from individuals male and female, who are over 18 years of age, in good physical and mental shape, who live in or within close proximity of the Town of Didsbury and who are willing to provide the dedication required to be part of an organization that serves a specialized need for the community. If this sounds like you, please complete an application to be a volunteer Firefighter for the Town of Didsbury and return it to the Fire Hall by Wednesday



February 9, 2011. Application forms are available at the Fire Hall on Wednesday evenings or at the Town of Didsbury Office during regular business hours (8:30 am -4:30 pm. Monday - Friday).

The Didsbury Fire Department thanks in advance all those who apply. however only those individuals who are successful will be contacted

### DEPARTMENT PHONE NUMBERS

Town Office: 8:30 am to 4:30 pm	
Public Works: 8:00 am to 4:30 pm	
Town of Didsbury after hours page	r
Planning & Infrastructure	
Didsbury Neighborhood Place	
Didsbury Information Line	
Community Services & FCSS	
Didsbury Landfill	
Aquatic Centre	
Arena & Complex Rentals	
Rosebud Valley Campground	
Chamber of Commerce Office	
Library	
Didsbury Museum	

#### FRANCHISE FEE INCREASE NOTICE

Please be advised that the Town of Didsbury is proposing to increase the local access fee, which is charged to Fortis Alberta Inc. (Fortis Alberta) for use of municipal lands for its power lines effective April 1, 2011. This fee is recovered by Fortis Alberta from its customers as the local access fee on electric billings of all customers that receive electric service in the Town of Didsbury.

This local access fee will be increased from 5% to 7.5% of the delivery charge of Fortis Alberta, excluding energy related riders. The average residential increase has been estimated at \$1.05 per month.

Questions or concerns should be directed to Kynan Larson, Chief Financial Officer at the Town of Didsbury 403,335,3391.

#### **OPEN HOUSE** EAST TRACKS REDEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Town of Didsbury is in the process of transitioning the downtown core development plan. Please come and drop in at the Memorial Complex on Thursday February 3, 2011 from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm to see the plans and provide your feedback for the East Tracks



### DIDSBURY RECREATION

### Funky Fitness—First Class Free!!

A step class with creative choreography at a high intensity. Mondays and Thursdays from 7:00 - 8:00 pm at the Westglen School gymnasium.

Drop in \$5.00 / 10-Pass \$45.00

All ages and abilities welcome! To purchase a pass please contact the Didsbury Memorial Complex at 403.335.7369.

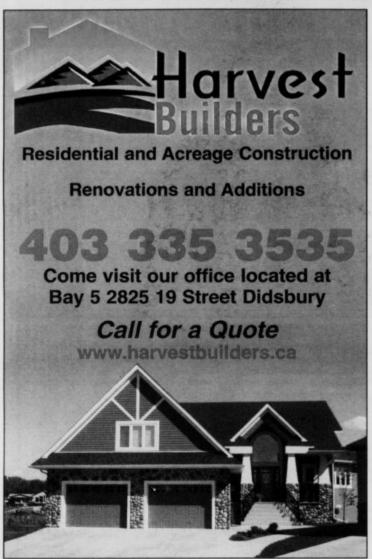
\$4.00 Family Shinny - Bring your family to play shinny Saturdays from 3:30 - 5:00 pm on the leisure ice.

\$2.00 Youth Shinny (8 - 15) - Come skate on the leisure ice Saturdays from 5:30 - 7:00 pm .



For more information regarding any Town of Didsbury Recreation program, please call the Didsbury Memorial Complex at 403.335.7369.

### Bird enthusiasts care for stranded robin



BY SYLVIA COLE Review Staff

They can hardly hide their excitement.

"Hello! Are you the pho-tographer? I think I spoke with you yesterday ... that robin, it's back!"

It's Ralph Worthing calling me early into my day to tell me that a robin he noticed perched on one of his backyard trees the day before is back. He couldn't take a photo

because the lens on the camera his wife uses is busted, so they ask me to come out quickly.

"I didn't want you to think I was pulling your leg," he said laughing as he shuffles me into his kitchen, and hands me a pair of binoculars. "Don't worry about taking your boots off," he said rushing me in towards a big window at their sink.

I don't know much about birds and even less how to use a pair of binoculars. I look into the eye holes and as I'm trying to figure out what I'm looking at I realize I wouldn't be able to tell this bird was in fact robin or some other bird sitting nearby.

Worthing directs me away from the top of the shed I'm currently looking at and tells me to follow straight up from the fence-

There on a branch is a puffed out bird with a bright red chest. As soon as I confirm that I see it Worthing and his wife Rosemary give me directions on the best place to stand in the yard to get the shot

As I'm crunching through the yard, I'm trying to figure out why a robin sighting is such a big deal.

Click, click click. The bird's noticed my camera and me and took flight. I can't tell where he's gone so I go back inside where Rosemary is fixing break-fast and Ralph's getting his glasses out so he can see the photos.

rest at their kitchen table and notice by the patio door there's a clock that has a different bird drawn at each hour. There's also a few photographs of birds. One's entirely blue.

Rosemary takes the photo down from the wall and said she took the photo. As she's telling me about her camera and other projects she's done, Ralph tells me about the bird.

The two tell me they've been watching birds for the last 40 years. Rosemary keeps a chart of all the birds she's seen. Last year she saw 103 different types of birds in Didsbury. "I've always been inter-

ested in them. As a little girl I would chase them down, and look for their nests," said Rosemary who finds it fascinating all the

different types she's seen.
She still comes across
birds she's never seen
before. Last year she saw an American Avocet for the first time.

She takes out a photo album that has photos of birds she's seen over the years. Ralph takes me to the living room and shows me an owl they found on the side of the road when driving to Olds one night It's been cleaned and stuffed and sits on a branch with its wings slightly raised, like it's about to take flight.

The couple are clearly was an American out one of his many bird books, typically flies south for the winter. The earliest the couple have spotted a robin before this, is in March. The two are wor ried he won't make it until

"That robin is a little mixed up," explains Ralph.

He's not the only robin hanging around in Alberta during this winter. Sightings of the bird around Nanton as well as around the Rosebud area have been reported to the Alberta Institute Wildlife Conservation.

"Robins are a migratory species so no, they're not supposed to be here during the winter months ... I'm not sure what's going on, said Tara Tamasi, execu-tive director for wildlife care. She said there were a few last year but there seems to be more sticking

around this year.
"I wouldn't say that
they're prepared but more
of the concern is their food source; I'm not sure what these robins are eating to survive," she said. She said it would be helpful for people to count the birds but without tagging the animal, it'd be hard to get a proper count

She said one reason for their stay could be that more people are feeding

"Could be that the perma nent population is expanding slowly to the east," she said, adding that the interior of the west coast of British Columbia is a permanent location for robins

The Worthings don't know what to think either. They wonder if the robin was young when winter first hit and if it got left behind. Rosemary has been making bird food from scraps around the kitchen including peanut butter, seeds and bacon fat. She said she has to refill the container about once a week. Other birds that stick around for the winter have been nibbling off it as well. They just hope the robin will still be around in spring.



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An American Robin sits on a tree in Didsbury instead of migrating to

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### Local spiel draws enthusiasts from Orange County



Rick Phillips Jr. Al Crawford

Ed Krebs Ella Bishop (Dicktury Pharmasne)

Winners of the 2011 Farm and Ranch Bonspiel

Danny Mar Les Charl

BY SYLVIA COLE Review Staff

Carstairs native Ryan Harty traded sand for rocks over the weekend when he ew in from Los Angeles to represent the Orange County Curling Club during the Carstairs men's bon

Harty, who graduated com Hugh Sutherland from chool in 1996, has since found his way to southern California where in the last couple of years curling has rocketed in popularity

"It started to get big about five years ago, before that there were no clubs in southern California," said Mark Piskura, one of three team mates that travelled to Carstairs for the weekend to play in the spiel. Piskura and the other teammates, Colin Lindberg and Evan Harder, said this weekend marked one year exactly since they took up the sport. Between the three of them they were able to list off close to seven clubs that have since cropped up from Hollywood to San Francisco and Oakland to name a few. Last week their club hosted a beginner session and drew people. During

Olympics the curling fever heightened and they had to turn people away from the club because they didn't enough room. explained the teammates as examples of the growing interest.

But with the sport still in its infancy in sunny California, the OC team jumped at the chance to play the sport in a country that's known for the sport.

'It was a great experience to play on dedicated ice and to play in Canada where the sport was perfected," said Lindberg.

The men explained their club practises on a hockey rink. There are four sheets roughly made and guidelines are painted so you can see the house, but they're not filled in. There aren't hacks in place. Instead the club has to come in and freeze temporary hacks into the surface and they have to pack the ice and coat the rocks to make a bed, they explain.

Because of the work and time it takes to get the sheets ready, the only practice time they get in is Saturday nights at 8.

"It's one of those things where it took me 27 years to find something like this.

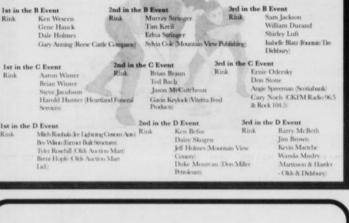
On Saturday nights, the only thing that exists is It's as everything else becomes black ... like being in outer space," said Lindberg.

"I really appreciate the tradition behind it and the etiquette that comes with the game," said Piskura of what draws him to the sport. He said there is a strong bond between curlers at the club and a great sense of community has evolved. Parents and children will come to the club to watch them play and after the game an old dive bar nearby the rink is almost always full of members and friends.

"It's also a sport that you can start at five and play until you're 85," he added, loving the fact he'll be able improve and continue with the sport forever.

The guys, who came to Alberta just for the event, didn't place but played three games before getting bumped from the tourna-

This is the furthest north, and the coldest place I've travelled to, but the experience was worth it," said Piskura, who said if he has the chance, he'll be coming back vear.



Wes-Can Seal Coating

Brian Krall

Dave Melnichuk/Diddhury

ng & Deligh



Skip Ryan Harty watches his team mates sweep the rock into the house during this weekend's bonspiel Carstairs. The men travelled from Orange County California to take part in the weekend's event

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Bailey Weaver practices figure skating moves during a training session at the Didsbury Memorial Complex on Jan. 13.

# Sports in

### Dragons continue to win

The senior boys basketball team headed to Canmore over the weekend to compete in a tournament. A few games were dropped and the schedule was rearranged somewhat because driving conditions kept some schools from showing up, but Didsbury Dragons remained strong and won their games. Dragons played against Canmore Collegiate, a 3A team ranked fifth in the province. Dragons are currently sixth for 2A teams. Dragons beat out Canmore in the first game 98-73 and went on to win 72-60 in the second. The boys are also getting ready for the Superman Classic hosted in Three Hills January 28-30. The tournament, by invite only, will bring in teams from all over including La Crete and High Level. Sixteen teams will compete, compared to a typical tournament that hosts six. "This will basically give their rankings for halfway through the season," said teacher Henry Paulgaard.

#### Tykes host tournament

Didsbury Ramblers Tykes 1, 2 and 3 hosted a tournament this weekend at the Memorial Complex. Teams from

ment this weekend at the Mentorial Complex. Colds, Innisfail, Airdrie, and Red Deer showed up to play. "It was an excellent weekend," said coach Darren Nichols of Tykes 2. "We lost two games and won the last 8-7 against Okotoks," he said.

The players, still learning the game and getting used to the event, don't play the tournament for rankings, he explained, but use it to learn a bit more.
"We got a lot of feedback from visiting teams that they

had a good time and would like to come back next year, he added. Coaches for Tyke 3 and Tyke 1 shared the same

Tyke 3 team tied the first two games and won the final 8-5 against Red Deer. Tyke 1 lost their first game 9-5, tied their second 6-6 and won the final game 13-4.

'It was their first tournament for the year and they did really well," said coach Paul Biggen.

### junior entries will change event times

BY SYLVIA COLE

Review Staff

Get to the races early so

Classic warns Sleddog coordinator, Bill Windsor who said time schedule

will change this year compared to previous years.

The race, typically runs until 2p.m. will be cut short

and finish around noon or just after he said. The reason for the change in time is the junior event isn't fill-ing up with entrants.

We haven't received any entries for the junior class ... which will impact the timeline (of events)," he aid. The junior class offered to children of parwho mush explained adding that it's not a class typically seen at

most sleddog races.
"We've offered it to give the kids something to do ... so it's not a huge deal if we don't get entries, we just want to make sure people

don't come down in the afternoon expecting to see the races and find out it's over," he said.

If no entries are received in the next week the races will end early. Windsor said Saturday the event will go a bit later than Sunday because of the weight pull event that starts about a half hour after the last class

Windsor is also hoping the weather doesn't warm up too much before January 28 and 29th so the trail will still be in good shape for the races.

"I've seen the forecast for

this week and it's disgust-ingly warm," he said hearing it could reach plus 5 by Friday. He said the trail is in pretty good shape that the warm weather won't deteriorate the trail but if it remains warm, it'll affect the dog's performance.

Races begin January 28 at 8:30 in the morning. Windsor said there will be shuttle bus circulating between downtown and the race site approximately every 20 minutes. The ride is by donation.

To see the route, check out the website at rosebudrun.ca.



Kevin Sparham goes out for a practice run early Satuday morning in preparation for the upcoming race.



The Didsbury Figure Skating Club is having a fantastic season with 118 skaters participating in the programs!! Our dedicated coaches and talented skaters are busy preparing for tests, various figure skating competitions, and of course the annual Carnival!!!

The Central Regional Funskate competition will be held on January 28 & 29 in Olds, Alberta!! Twenty four of our skaters have entered this competition.

DFSC Carnival, on Sunday March 20, is a fantastic opportunity for our skaters to showcase their talents!!! Everyone is welcome to come and watch these events!!

### COLLEGE

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ds College, in cooperation with Horse Racing Alberta is pleased to announce that we have room for se fividuals who are looking at starting a career in the horse racing industry. The deadline for this program onday February 7, 2011. \*\*ogram Overview\*\* is 15 week program will give program participants the confidence, fitness and skills to be an profession om in the Race Track Industry. Under the instruction and supervision of professionals in horse racing opram participants will learn the theory and practices to develop industry required equire and barn anagement skills. Over the course of the program the participants will be gradually introduced to more alleenign griding conditions as their abilities and confidence increase. Upon completion of the course, intropants will be expected to demonstrate mastery of specific competencies through individual assessments.

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### In and Around Didsbury

Marge St Clair

#### Thurs. Jan.20

The doors open at 1:30 p.m. at Eldon Foote Hall for all the seniors of the town and district. Come and take part in the activities and enjoy the refreshments served.

#### Fri. Jan. 21

Cribbage play will start at 7:00 p.m. at the Elks Coffee and goodies served.

#### Sat. Jan. 22

This is the day of the Babysitting course for ages 11 yrs. and up from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. There is a charge, phone (403) 335-8719 to register.

### Tues., January 25

Great news! We have just heard Mr. Greer Black from Bethany Care Society has agreed to be the guest speaker at the Rosebud Health Foundation's AGM. speaker at the Roseoud Readin Foundation's AVIM.

Bethany Care Society is the organization that has been contracted to oversee and operate the 100 bed facility that will be built in Didsbury. The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. in the Education Room of the Didsbury hospital in the basement. It is very important to get as many people out to the meeting as possible.

#### Wed. Jan. 26

Connie's Foot Care will be at the 5-0 Club. Please phone 403-861-7826 for an appointment.

Today, the museum will resume the "Coffee and Conversation" series from 1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. The guest speaker, Mr. Ray Arie, a member of the Didsbury Radio Control Fun Flyer Assoc. will tell you all about the assembly of the planes and the fun of it all.

The Community Bus will be going on a Casino Trip to Calgary leaving the Complex at 3:30 p.m. To reserve your seat, phone Tom & Shirley Hewitt (403) 518-6247.

#### Thurs. Jan. 27 - Sat. Jan. 29

Get your entries in now for the men's open Bonspiel at the Didsbury Curling Club. Enter while you are there curling or phone Darren (403) 335-9107. Gymnastics for kids 18 months and up will be held at the Ross Ford School Gym from Feb. 2 to April 27 on Wednesday evenings. If you were sunable to attend registration night please phone Wendy at (403) 335-3763 to register and more info.

Book Sale-February 4—12 noon-7 p.m. February 5—9 a.m.- 12 noon in the basement of the Lawn Bowling building sponsored by the Friends of the Didsbury Library. Next meeting of the Friends of the Didsbury Library will be Jan. 19 at the library.

February 8
Christian Women's Breakfast, 11 9:30 am at the Luthern Church in Didsbury \$6.00 pr/person phone for reservations. Ann 403 - 335 - 8444 or Vicky 403 335 3500 Free Baby Sitting.



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